

9 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Comments made by C. D. Jackson to [] on 9 April 1953.

1. Following my briefing of Mr. Jackson on the Albanian question, he told me that he had received two pieces of information from Adam Watson with respect to Tito's recent visit to London and his discussion of the Albanian problem. Mr. Jackson quoted Mr. Watson as saying that Tito had told the British that an Albanian coup could and should be accomplished right away, that Tito was prepared to enter into a deal with the British and Americans in this connection if agreement could be reached with the Greeks and Italians. Mr. Watson was reported to have said that Tito asserted he would be delighted to pull off a coup, without annexation of Albania.

2. Mr. Jackson commented that, if this was true, that fact, together with the Greek-Turkish-Yugoslav pact and the absolute necessity of effecting a dramatic territorial defection which would not bring on World War III, would indicate the need for a coup in Albania this year.

3. Mr. Jackson added that, assuming that "Operation Carcus" could be settled and that the British felt this matter to be important, it must be done in 1953. He then asked [] views as to the feasibility of a coup this year. [] stated that it was his opinion that our present assets were not such as to make possible a coup this year which would have the appearance of being an internal revolution, and that the only way it could be accomplished would be with outside assistance. Mr. Jackson observed that, inasmuch as British and American forces obviously would not participate in such an action, it left the Greeks and Yugoslavia. [] observed that, in this case, presumably the bulk of the forces would have to be drawn from the large Albanian minority in Yugoslavia, who might conceivably be passed off as native Albanians.

4. Mr. Jackson asked [] if we had anything to substantiate Mr. Watson's statement, and [] said that we had no such information and called Mr. Jackson's attention to a recent

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cable from the American Embassy in London containing some of the results of the discussions between Tito and the British government, in which reference was made to British-Yugoslav agreement to leave the present situation in Albania undisturbed, Tito's statement that Yugoslavia had no territorial designs on Albania, the statement that no collapse of the Albanian government was anticipated in the near future, and British reassurances to the Italian government with respect to fears by the latter, that action in Albania might be imminent. Mr. Freer mentioned that we had heard nothing to this effect from the British on the level of the RGFIHQD liaison and that it was completely contrary to the estimate of the situation given to [] and [] by SDB officials at the time of their meeting to discuss Albania on 16 and 17 February 1953. [] said that he could only express surprise at this report.

5. Mr. Jackson then suggested that this report should be checked with Mr. Watson and [] undertook to refer this back to Mr. Wisner. In conclusion, [] mentioned that it had been planned to have a meeting with the British on the subject of Albania in early May, but that this date was not feasible and that the meeting was now tentatively set for mid-June. To this Mr. Jackson replied that June was too late.

Dictated by [] in
O/DDCI:CF/vmh 9 April 1953
Distribution:
Orig & 1 cc: Addressee
cc: G/PF
4 cc: SE/PI ([])

[]
SE/PI
(dictated but not read)